

At The Economic Times Startup Awards 2016, the Nandan Nilekani-led jury bats for cos displaying both solidity and ability to scale up, choosing winners in eight categories

Freshdesk Is ET's Startup of The Year

THE HIGH-POWERED JURY



SITTING FROM LEFT Kartik Hosanagar, Nandan Nilekani, Amitabh Kant and Vani Kola; **STANDING FROM LEFT** Mukesh Bansal, Rajan Anandan, Subrata Mitra, Vijay Shekhar Sharma, Sachin Bansal and Satyan Gajwani

Team ET

Bengaluru: Software company **Freshdesk** has claimed top honours at The Economic Times Startup Awards 2016, joining a group of winners distinguished by technical prowess and a track record of performance.

Meeting on Saturday in Bengaluru, an exemplary jury chaired by Infosys cofounder Nandan Nilekani plumped for those combining solidity and an ability to scale, choosing winners in eight award categories.

Joining cloud-based helpdesk software company Freshdesk on the top step of the podium are **Avnish Bajaj** of venture capital firm Matrix Partners (Midas Touch Award for Best Investor); **Meena Ganesh** of home healthcare provider Portea (Woman Ahead); **Kunal Shah** of FreeCharge (Comeback Kid); discount broker **Zerodha** (Bo-

otstrap Champ); **Mitra Biotech** (Top Innovator); **Agrostar** (Social Enterprise); and smart electric bike maker **Ather Energy** (Best on Campus).

"The depth and variety of startups was staggering," said Amitabh Kant, the CEO of the government's policy-making think-tank Niti Aayog. "From startups that were trying to cure cancer to startups that were in the field of education and skilling, the range of important problems they were trying to solve was truly impressive."

Other than Nilekani and Kant, the

jury for the second edition of the ET Startup Awards consisted of Google Southeast Asia and India Vice-President Rajan Anandan; CureFit cofounder Mukesh Bansal; Flipkart cofounder Sachin Bansal; The Wharton School professor Kartik Hosanagar; Times Internet Vice-Chairman Satyan Gajwani; Vani Kola of Kalaari Capital; Subrata Mitra of Accel Partners; and Paytm founder Vijay Shekhar Sharma.

Quality of Entrepreneurship >>> 18

WINNERS' LIST >>> 7, 8, 9, 10



NANDAN NILEKANI
Infosys Cofounder

For choosing the Startup of the Year, we looked at the entrepreneurs, but the business idea is equally important



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THE ECONOMIC TIMES
START-UP AWARDS 2016

Search for Role Models



The 10-member jury for India's finest

startup awards was clear that winners should have set examples worthy of emulation. >>> 7

On Track to Becoming the Next Unicorn



Freshdesk is a profitable company on track to becoming India's next Unicorn. >>> 7